

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EGEN

SUBJ: GOG REVISES PROCEDURES FOR MAJOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: REFLECTING EVIDENT UNHAPPINESS
WITH SOARING PRICES ON MAJOR GOG PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS,
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECEMBER 17 DECIDED TO TIGHTEN
PROCEDURES FOR AWARDING OF CONTRACTS IN FUTURE.

2. ACCORDING TO COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE, PRIORITY WILL HENCE-
FORTH BE GIVEN TO "TECHNOLOGY AND PLANNING," AND ALL
MAJOR PROJECTS MUST BE SUBJECT OF CAREFUL STUDY BEFORE
CONTRACTS MAY BE AWARDED. CONTRACTS THEMSELVES MUST BE
RESULT OF BIDDING PROCESS, WITH AWARD APPROVED BY SPECIAL
COMMISSION (COMPOSITION NOT INDICATED) ON BASIS OF
CONTRACTOR SUBMISSION WHICH INCLUDES DETAILED PRICE
INFORMATION AND GUARANTEE AGAINST "EXCESSIVE OR EXHORBITANT"
AND EASING STRAIN ON BUDGET WITHOUT HAVING TO ADMIT
PUBLICLY THAT GOG HAS PROMISED TO DO TOO MUCH TOO FAST.
SOURCES THUS PRESENT COUNCIL DECISIONS AS MOST POLITI-
CALLY PALATABLE WAY FOR BONGO AND GOG TO ACHIEVE
ECONOMICALLY DESIRABLE RESULT OF PUTTING SLIGHT DAMPER

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ON OVERLY AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

6. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DRAGAGES CONTRACTS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT COMPANY WAS INDEED AWARDED BOTH PROJECTS WITHOUT RECOURSE TO OPEN BIDDING, BUT THAT AWARDS WERE MADE IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH GOG PROCEDURES AND QUARREL IS ENTIRELY OVER PRICE FOR JOB. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT COMPANY WILL BE ABLE RESOLVE ITS DIFFERENCES WITH GOG AND WILL IN THE END BE AUTHORIZED TO GO AHEAD AND COMPLETE TWO PROJECTS AS PLANNED. STEIGMAN

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